

POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1957

together with

THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

30th September, 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1957. It has been compiled in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health.

The statistical tables do not reveal any dramatic developments during the year, but it is satisfactory to note that the Infantile Mortality Rate (unadjusted) shows a drop from 27.0 last year to 15.8 this year - also no cases of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria were notified - and no deaths occurred from Acute Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Meningococcal Infections, Pregnancy, Child-birth or Abortion. Notifications of Measles showed the usual cyclical increase (approximately biennial). No outbreaks of Food Poisoning were reported, and the attention bestowed by the Public Health Inspectors has resulted in the standards maintained in the Food Premises of the district.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge with gratitude the excellent work carried on by the Public Health Inspectors and all other members of the staff of the department.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. I. OUTRAM

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area	6,129 acres
Population (mid 1957 - Registrar General's Estimate)	20,370
Number of inhabited houses (31st December, 1957)	6,400
Rateable Value (31st March, 1957)	£332,572
Product of a penny rate (31st March, 1957) ..	£1,333

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population ..	15.5
Birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	14.3
Birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 for England and Wales	16.1
Birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 for Middlesex ..	13.8
Death-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	8.5
Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	11.2
Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 for England and Wales	11.5
Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 for Middlesex ..	10.9
Still Births per 1,000 total births (live and still)	18.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY

(deaths of children under one year of age)

Death-rate per 1,000 live births	15.8
Death-rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	23.0
Death-rate per 1,000 live births for Middlesex	17.7

BIRTHS

1957	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	154	150	304	4	2	6
Illegitimate	5	7	12	-	-	-
TOTALS	159	157	316	4	2	6

<u>DEATHS - Causes</u>						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System ..						1	0	1
Tuberculosis - other forms						0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases						0	0	0
Measles						0	0	0
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..						0	0	0
Cancer - all forms and other malignant neoplasms						12	11	23
Leukaemia						2	1	3
Diabetes						0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..						9	11	20
Heart Diseases						35	31	66
Other Circulatory disease						7	6	13
Influenza						1	2	3
Pneumonia						3	3	6
Bronchitis						4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system						0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum						5	1	6
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..						0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis						1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate						2	0	2
Congenital Malformations						1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents						3	0	3
Other Accidents						1	3	4
Suicide						1	1	2
Other causes						4	9	13
Totals ..						92	81	173

Note. No deaths occurred from Acute Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Meningococcal Infections, Pregnancy, Child-birth or Abortion.

The following tables show details of statistics for the years since 1941.

1. POPULATION, RATEABLE VALUE, etc.

Year	Number of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value at 31st March	Population (mid-year)
1921(Census)	-	£ -	3135
1931(Census)	-	-	5720
1941	4429	150,369	14850
1942	4429	153,210	14660
1943	4431	152,572	14290
1944	4432	152,896	14190
1945	4432	153,286	14270
1946	4554	152,792	15350
1947	4724	157,834	16120
1948	4837	162,743	16340
1949	5006	163,376	16540
1950	5028	168,364	16660
1951	5074	169,444	16800(Estimate) 17163(Census)
1952	5149	171,671	16970
1953	5247	174,831	17210
1954	5286	180,300	17620
1955	5485	187,121	17790
1956	5700	193,264	18910
1957	6400	332,572	20370

2. DEATH RATE, BIRTH RATE, etc. (Unadjusted)

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1941	+	+	+
1942	9.9	17.1	23.9
1943	9.7	17.4	16.1
1944	8.9	20.6	30.8
1945	10.4	15.4	36.4
1946	8.7	18.4	14.1
1947	8.9	19.0	32.6
1948	7.8	17.7	6.9
1949	7.8	15.3	15.9
1950	8.4	15.2	19.8
1951	9.8	14.6	24.5
1952	8.9	13.8	21.3
1953	8.3	14.2	16.4
1954	7.4	14.0	12.1
1955	8.0	13.6	8.3
1956	9.2	15.7	27.0
1957	8.5	15.5	15.8

+ Figures not available.

Section B
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA

The Council's Public Health Committee now deals with all matters relating to Public Health, including action taken under the Housing Acts and Slum Clearance which were previously the concern of the Housing Committee. Certain other functions of the department, however, are specifically referred to other Committees, e.g. work covered by the Shops Act and Petroleum Acts is dealt with by the General Purposes Committee, and applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 are dealt with by the Housing Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health	M.I.Outram, M.B.,Ch.B., (part-time) D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector ..	J.H.Rooley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector ..	R.W.Rixson, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Both Public Health Inspectors are whole-time officers, are qualified Meat and Food Inspectors, and possess the Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

The Senior Inspector holds the additional appointments of Housing Manager and Inspector under the Shops Act and Petroleum Acts. The Additional Inspector is also Assistant Shops Act Inspector, and during the year was appointed authorised officer under the Petroleum Acts. Both are appointed officers under various minor enactments such as the Pet Animals Act, 1951, Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, etc..

LABORATORY FACILITIES

During the year the laboratory work of the Council was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, N.W.9. This laboratory is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

The specimens submitted by the Public Health Department were:-

Milk Samples	100
Ice-cream samples	80

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Middlesex County Council and vehicles are kept at various stations throughout the County. At the present time no vehicles operate from the Fire and Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

NURSING IN THE HOME

Miss M.M. Palmer of 1, Frowyke Crescent, South Mimms and Mrs. Y.M.E.M. Howell of 80, Mimms Hall Road, Potters Bar are registered midwives; Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Air of 255, Mutton Lane are Queen's Nursing Sisters.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are two clinics - one at the Village Hall, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the Area Health Committee and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare and dental services.

HOSPITALS

There are three hospitals within the district - Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, the Clare Hall Hospital at South Mimms, and the Pawling Home for Children at Kitts End. The first two are controlled by the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee.

Cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppett's Wood Hospital.

The Chest Clinic for the Potters Bar area is held at Clare Hall.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied by the Barnet District Water Company, and all houses have a mains supply. During the year, 100 samples were submitted to independent analysts - 35 for chemical and 65 for bacteriological examination. Of these, 59 were representative of supply, and all were free from B. Coli I in 100 m.l.

In addition 2173 samples were examined in the Company's laboratory - 1918 bacteriological and 255 chemical examinations. Of the 1918, 1433 were representative of supply and all were found to be free from B. Coli Type I in 100 m.l.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

On the sewerage system and the disposal works, the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:-

"Good progress was maintained on the construction of new soil sewers to meet the needs of an expanding district. Work is nearing completion on the soil sewerage scheme which extends and improves the system in the south eastern part of the district and caters for the large scale development taking place in that area.

Work was continued on the maintenance and repair of the Council's older soil sewers, entailing the rebuilding of a number of manholes.

The year has seen the closing of the Potters Bar and South Mimms Sewage Works. The former ceased to operate in February and the latter in March, following the district being connected up to the Colne Valley Sewerage Board's trunk sewers.

Subsequent to the closing of the Sewage Works, work was commenced on the investigation of the problem of the infiltration of surface water into the soil sewers. This problem is likely to lead to prolonged investigation and where faults were located, every effort was made, with the staff available, to make good such faults, and in time, by this method, many of the Council's older sewers and manholes will be repaired or rebuilt.

The improvements and repairs, coupled with routine inspections and maintenance, have ensured that the soil and surface water systems have presented the minimum of problems during the past year."

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports:-

"During the year consideration has been given to the terms of a new contract. Various types of refuse vehicles were inspected and demonstrations held. Consequent upon these considerations a new contract was entered into with Messrs. D. Heath & Sons of Enfield, for the continuance of a fortnightly collection to commence on the 1st April, 1958. Within the terms of the Council's contract refuse collection and the disposal of refuse by means of the utilisation of tipping facilities at Cole Green continued to prove satisfactory."

SWIMMING POOL

The only swimming pool in the district is attached to the San Marina Restaurant at South Mimms, and is privately owned.

The pool has not been in regular use for several years and, in September, 1956, the entire premises were vacated and closed down.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act have been forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Extracts from the report are:-

(a) Inspections

44 inspections were made in respect of the 57 factories and 20 other premises subject to the provisions of the Act. In 3 premises contraventions of the provisions of the Factories Act were observed and 2 were remedied.

(b) Outworkers

Employers' lists submitted showed that there were 32 premises where homework was carried on. 26 inspections were made.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

During 1957 no action was necessary under the provisions of this section.

Section D - Housing

(See page 17 of the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report).

Section E - Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 20 of the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report).

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year 1957 were:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	2	-
Whooping Cough	16	-	-
Measles	301	-	-
Lobar Pneumonia	4	1	-
TOTALS	327	3	-

The following figures show notifications of certain Infectious Diseases since 1941:-

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
1941	23	4	0	271	137
1942	53	4	3	194	132
1943	35	0	0	280	51
1944	10	0	0	23	76
1945	14	0	0	287	22
1946	36	1	8	104	44
1947	11	0	3	51	58
1948	17	0	1	108	57
1949	11	0	1	278	43
1950	44	0	8	306	144
1951	15	0	3	179	67
1952	17	0	1	164	21
1953	22	0	1	381	142
1954	23	0	0	8	35
1955	4	0	1	537	9
1956	2	0	1	30	25
1957	6	0	0	301	16

IMMUNISATION

This service is carried out by the Area Medical Officer of Health, and he has kindly supplied the following figures relating to Potters Bar children.

	Diphtheria only	Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough only	Polio- myelitis
Number of children who completed full course of primary immunisation	57	165	26	680
Number of children who received rein- forcing injections	588	6	6	-

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS

DISEASES - 1957

Diseases	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65	Total 1957	Total 1956
Scarlet Fever	-	2	3	1	-	6	2
Whooping Cough	7	8	1	-	-	16	25
Measles	121	178	2	-	-	301	30
Lobar Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	-	-	2	2	-	4	2
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	128	188	8	3	-	327	75

TUBERCULOSIS - 1957

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals 1957	5	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
Totals 1956	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the commencement and end of the year are shown in the following table, as the foregoing gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

1957	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	80	60	140	6	2	8	148
Total on register at end of year	87	69	156	4	4	8	164

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report for the year 1957, and once again I must mention new legislation some of which places new responsibilities on the Council.

In the "Smoke Abatement" Section on Page 27 I refer to those provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 which became operative on 31st December, 1956 and no further reference is necessary, other than to remark that there is no large industrial problem in this district and it is not expected to be necessary to carry out very extensive observations under the Act.

The Housing Act, 1957 also came into operation on September 1st but its provisions are largely a consolidation of existing provisions contained in the earlier Housing Acts.

Probably the most important feature was the introduction of the Rent Act, 1957 which became operative on 6th July. The provisions of this Act will have a considerable impact on the old landlord-tenant relationship, and although the Certificate of Disrepair procedure is still retained, the Act has been designed to restrict much of this procedure to negotiation between landlord and tenant and only on few occasions is the Local Authority now involved. In theory the provisions of the Act offer protection to tenants but in practice it has been found that many tenants, particularly the aged, are quite incapable of even understanding the procedure to be adopted, let alone carrying it out. Very many houses have been decontrolled by the Act and experience so far shows that most landlords, in arranging new rental agreements with their tenants, are seizing the opportunity of ridding themselves of the responsibility for repair and maintenance. This does not relieve a Local Authority of its duties under the Housing Acts in relation to unfit houses but a tenant obviously will not be so ready to complain of defects when he himself has undertaken, however unwillingly, responsibility for repairs. At the time of writing it is still too early to assess the results of the Act with regard to eviction proceedings although from the information available it is probable that the number of families affected will not exceed about 20. This figure, compared with other districts of the area, is comparatively low, due to the high proportion of owner-occupied houses. Nevertheless there are several hundred properties in the district which are let to tenants on an "investment" basis.

In July, 1957 Mrs. Mansfield, after 12 years' service with the Council, resigned and was replaced by a male assistant. Arising from this it was decided to carry out some reorganisation of duties, and it was possible to strengthen the public health side of the Department. The full effects of this were not apparent during 1957 but it is hoped that the pressure felt in recent years will, to some extent, be relieved.

During 1957 attention to food premises was continued and details are shown in later pages. Generally, however, it is possible to say that such premises in this district are now of a reasonably high standard.

New Petroleum Regulations relating to the delivery of petrol were issued during the year and these operated from July 1st. Towards the end of the year the Home Office issued a Revised Code of Recommendations on Petroleum Licence conditions and although the Council adopted these in principle it is not expected that they can be fully implemented until 1959. Undoubtedly, however, the work of administering the Petroleum Acts and Regulations is not only increasing many fold but is becoming more and more technical and one wonders whether any officer of a local authority, however well qualified in his ordinary duties, has now sufficient technical knowledge properly to carry out all the functions required.

I am pleased to report that progress continued with the "Slum Clearance" programme and I think members will agree that the new properties which are erected on the sites of demolished unfit houses add to the appearance of the district as well as increasing the Rateable Value.

Finally I would remark that all members of the Department have worked well and conscientiously during the year and I would record my appreciation of the loyal service given.

Your obedient servant,

J.H. ROOLEY,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

Routine housing work under Section 5 of the Housing Act, 1936 and the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, was confined almost entirely to work in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance programme. During the year 9 more houses were demolished. Ten families, a total of 20 persons, were rehoused by the Council from condemned property.

The table below shows the number of houses dealt with by the Council in their five year Slum Clearance programme which began in 1955:-

	1955	1956	1957	Total
Houses represented to Council - Formally or Informally.	16	17	14	47
Unfit Houses actually demolished - (a) After Formal or Informal action.	12	15	6	33
(b) Voluntarily by Owners	2	2	3	7

In the case of one property represented to the Council as unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost, an appeal against the Demolition Order was made by the owner. This appeal was subsequently withdrawn when an agreement between the owner and the Council was entered into regarding the repair and improvement of the property. At the end of the year repair work on this house was in progress.

Repair

In addition to procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 some inspections under the Housing and Public Health Acts were carried out mainly as a result of complaints received. Under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 complete surveys were made at two houses, and a further 20 houses were dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of specific defects or nuisance. These figures do not include those houses dealt with for choked drainage only and which numbered 39, being the houses affected by 22 blockages.

During the year 5 houses which had been surveyed under Section 9 prior to 1957 were rendered fit for human habitation, and the defects at 18 houses inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936 were remedied.

A summary of improvements and repairs carried out at dwelling houses during the year appears at the end of the report.

Improvement Grants

During the year a number of enquiries regarding Improvement Grants were made but only two owners proceeded with formal applications. These were both approved. Details of these two applications are given below:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Nature of Improvement</u>	<u>Cost and amount of Grant</u>
188, Mutton Lane,	Underpinning existing side addition to provide a first floor bathroom and internal W.C; providing a domestic hot water supply; improving light and ventilation to the scullery; and carrying out drainage alterations.	£580.5.0d. (£290.2.6d.)
Bridgefoot Lodge, Wash Lane.	Providing a bathroom addition, domestic hot water supply, suitable food larder, internal W.C. to replace external earth closet; and drainage to the Council's sewer.	£400 (£200)

The works of improvement and repair at one house which was approved for grant prior to 1957, were completed during the year and by the end of the year work was in progress at one of the two properties approved for grant during 1957.

In all the number of visits made in connection with Improvement Grants amounted to 55.

Certificates of Disrepair

With the coming into operation on the 6th July, 1957 of the Rent Act, 1957, a very large number of enquiries on many aspects of rent control and procedure under the new Act were received and dealt with in the department. Despite the many enquiries and requests for official forms, only 3 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received before the end of the year. These were dealt with as follows:-

Number refused	NIL
Landlord notified of proposal to issue Certificate of Disrepair (Form J)	3
Undertakings given by landlord to remedy defects (Form K)	2

Certificates of Disrepair issued	1
Landlord's application for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	NIL

Housing Management

During 1957, 56 new dwellings were completed and 12 of these were single bedroom flats for Aged Persons or single applicants. The Council now owns 82 single bedroom flats, bungalows or maisonettes which represents 8.5% of the total properties.

In addition to the new houses or flats coming into use, several vacancies occurred in Council houses, and in all, during the year, 109 lettings were made (25 fewer than in 1956). Seventy-four families were housed from the waiting list and 9 from properties demolished under the Slum Clearance programme. During the year 14 units of requisitioned accommodation were released, the families concerned being rehoused in permanent accommodation. This completed the Council's programme of releasing requisitioned properties. Thirty-five transfers were effected and by this method, the best use of available accommodation was ensured.

The use of Sherwood Avenue Hostel as a Halfway House was continued during the year.

The Rent Act, 1957 became operative on July 6th and from the enquiries received it became apparent that several families in the district would be faced with eviction proceedings. The Housing Committee took special measures, however, for the position to be kept under review and decided that every effort would be made to provide sufficient emergency accommodation for families who were evicted.

A review of the waiting list was carried out and resulted in several applications being deleted from the list. At the end of the year the outstanding total was 395 compared with 488 at the end of 1956.

The Differential Rent Scheme continued to operate smoothly, about 110 tenants receiving rebates from the maximum rent of their premises. The total rebates given amounted to approximately £2,700 for the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year under review a considerable amount of time was spent in follow-up inspections and the supervision of works in progress to secure compliance with those notices served under the new Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 outstanding at the commencement of the year. Nearly all these notices were complied with by the end of the year.

536 inspections and other visits were made to the various food premises, vehicles, etc., in which food was prepared, stored or sold. Seventeen informal notices and one statutory notice under the new Act or Regulations were served during 1957, and 46 informal notices and one statutory notice were complied with during the year.

The tables that follow show at the 31st December, 1957 the number of food premises in the district by type of business, and the number registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Number of Food Premises by Type of Business

Business	(a) No. of food premises	(b) No. of food trades
Catering Establishments:-		
(a) Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	12)	19)
(b) School Canteens	10)	10)
(c) Works Canteens	3)	5)
(d) Hospital and Institution Kitchens	5)	5)
Bakehouses	3	3
Butchers	9	12
Fishmongers	5	5
Grocers	28	32
Greengrocers	10	13
Milk Distributing Depots	3	3
Bakers and Confectioners	5	7
Mixed shops (2 or more principal trades)	7	-
Public Houses	13	13
Sweet Shops	13	25
Ice-cream:-		
Manufacturers and Vendors (Registered)	-	2
Vendors only (Registered)	-	34
TOTALS	126	188

Notes: Under (a) are the number of food premises classified according to the principal business only.

The figures in column (b) show the number of different trades carried on in the district and take into account the more important subsidiary trades carried on at multiple shops and stores.

Number of food premises, by type, registered under
Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Storage, sale or manufacture of ice-cream	36
Manufacture of sausages	9
Boiling of hams	8
	<u>53</u>

Below is a classification of the visits paid to food establishments and vehicles:-

<u>Type of premises</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Cafes, licensed premises, etc.,	174
Bakehouses	32
Butchers' shops	57
Ice-cream manufacturers	28
Milk Depots	-
Other food premises	209
Milk and other food delivery vehicles, hawkers, etc.	<u>36</u>
	<u>536</u>

A record of improvements effected at the various food establishments as a result of these visits will be found at the end of the report.

Certificates of Exemption

No Certificates of Exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 were issued during the year.

Ice-Cream

At the end of the year there were two premises in which ice-cream was manufactured on a small scale, and in each case the "heat treated" process was employed.

No new applications for registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the storage and sale of ice-cream were received, and at the end of the year there were 36 premises registered.

During the year 80 samples of ice-cream were obtained and submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory for analysis with the following results:-

All manufacturers:-

Satisfactory	(Grade 1 68) (Grade 2 7)	75 or 94%
Unsatisfactory	(Grade 3 3) (Grade 4 2)	5 or 6%

Local manufacturers only:-

Satisfactory	(Grade 1 20) (Grade 2 1)	21 or 87.5%
Unsatisfactory	(Grade 3 2) (Grade 4 1)	3 or 12.5%

Comparative figures for last 5 years:-

<u>All manufacturers:-</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Satisfactory (Grades 1 and 2)	96%	96%	98.5%	100%	94%
Unsatisfactory (Grades 3 and 4)	4%	4%	1.5%	NIL	6%
<u>Local manufacturers only:-</u>					
Satisfactory (Grades 1 and 2)	100%	86%	100%	100%	87.5%
Unsatisfactory (Grades 3 and 4)	NIL	14%	NIL	NIL	12.5%
Total Samples taken	181	110	69	63	80

Notes:

With the exception of one isolated Grade 3 sample of pre-packed ice-cream which was manufactured outside the district, each of the unsatisfactory samples was investigated.

Three of these samples (one in Grade 4 and two in Grade 3) were obtained from a local manufacturer. After investigation it was concluded that the Grade 4 sample was a result of a breakdown in refrigeration at the manufacturer's premises and the two samples in Grade 3, which were obtained five months later, were probably due to improperly sterilised servers. The faults were remedied and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

The other Grade 4 sample was obtained from an itinerant vendor from another district. On inspection of the van at the time the sample was taken, it was found not to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, there being no satisfactory facilities for cleansing and sterilising servers and other equipment or for personal hand-washing. The matter was taken up with the vendor and the local authority concerned.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Milk Supply

During 1957, 100 samples of the various designated milks were taken from retailers trading in the district; all were satisfactory.

There were 9 Dealers' and 11 Supplementary licences to sell designated milks in force in 1957.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

The table following shows the food which was examined and found unfit for human consumption and subsequently surrendered and destroyed:-

Unsound Food - 1957

				lbs.	ozs.
English Beef	..	..	..	58	-
Imported Kidneys	..	..		28	-
Boiled Bacon	..	..	..	14	8
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	18	-
Tinned Fish	..	..	..	-	14
Tinned Vegetables	..	..		1	3
Tinned Fruit	..	..	..	19	-
Tinned Frozen Egg	..	..		10	-
Total				<u>1 cwt. 1 qtr. 9 lbs. 9 ozs.</u>	

All condemned food is disposed of either by burning in the furnace of Clare Hall Hospital, or rendered unusable and disposed of at the Refuse Tip at Cole Green, Hatfield.

Food and Drugs Act (Adulteration etc.)

These duties are carried out by the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council and Mr. O'Keefe, Chief Officer of that department, has kindly supplied the following information which shows the work carried out in Potters Bar during 1957:-

(a) Sampling

Article	Total Samples Procured	Unsatisfactory
Milk (Various)	20	2
Cakes	2	-
Cream	3	-
Drugs	12	-
Fish and Fish Products	10	-
Fruit - Fresh and Canned	4	1
Garden Peas	4	-
Ice-Cream	10	-
Liver	4	-
Meat and Meat Products	11	-
Preserves	2	-
Vinegar	8	-
Miscellaneous	6	1
Totals	96	4

Notes:

Milk Each of the two unsatisfactory samples of milk was found to be slightly deficient in solids-not-fat; there was no indication of any added water and subsequent samples taken from the same source were satisfactory.

Fresh Fruit A trader supplied Packham's Triumph pears to a purchaser who had asked for William pears; proceedings were instituted and the trader was fined £2 and ordered to pay £1.1s.0d. costs.

Miscellaneous A sample of imported cream cheese was labelled with a declaration of the percentage milk fat-content of the cheese based on the total dry solids. This was in a form which could have misled a purchaser into believing that the percentage of milk fat declared was based on the whole cheese. An official caution was sent to the importers concerned.

(b) Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953

Twenty-nine inspections of shops were undertaken to ensure that the Marking Orders relating to certain imported foodstuffs made under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, were complied with. 246 separate displays of meat, apples, tomatoes and poultry were examined, and in addition a number of test purchases were made. No infringement of the requirements of these Acts and Marking Orders was disclosed.

(c) Labelling of Food Order, 1953

At 30 premises 167 articles of pre-packed food were examined to see that they bore a label which gave a clear statement of the designation of the food and, in the case of compound foods, the ingredients, and also the name and address of the packer or labeller. No infringement of this Order was detected.

(d) False or Misleading Descriptions

As in previous years a considerable amount of work has been done in the detailed scrutiny of advertisements and the labels on pre-packed foods, and taking suitable action in those cases where a label or advertisement contains a false or misleading description of the food to which it relates. This work is of benefit to the whole County irrespective of where within the County offences may be detected. During the year under review corrective action has been secured in respect of salmon with potato salad, crystallized jelly pineapple slices, pure egg mundelech, cherry juice, lime juice, imitation cream, cream filled biscuits, cream filled Easter eggs and cheese. In every case the person responsible agreed to make necessary suitable amendments to labels as a result of my representations. In no case was it necessary to institute proceedings.

(e) Safe Milk

Twenty-four samples of raw milk were procured within your area. One of these was found to be contaminated and the matter was reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for their attention.

RODENT CONTROL, 1957

During the year under review 164 notifications of rats and/or mice were received and investigated compared with 134 during 1956. The number of primary surveys carried out as a routine measure or associated with notifications was 339 compared with 327 in 1956 but the number of treatments was rather more than last year (131 compared with 97 last year).

As in previous years the methods of eradication employed were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The types of infestation encountered followed the usual pattern - gardens, yards and outbuildings attached to dwelling houses predominating. Some treatment of agricultural property has been undertaken, but these premises have, for the most part, been treated privately or through the Agricultural Executive Committee.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the department during 1957:-

Number of primary surveys carried out

by (a)	notification	..	..	..	..	..	..	164	
(b)	otherwise	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>175</u>	339

Total number of visits made in connection with Rodent Control

(a)	by Public Health Inspector	..	..	..	..	..	56	
(b)	by Rodent Operator	..	..	..	..	..	<u>970</u>	1026

Number of separate treatments carried out

						Rats	Mice	Total
(a)	by Local Authority	..	..	..	..	101	25	126
(b)	by Occupiers	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
						<u>104</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>131</u>

Number of cases where no infestation was found .. 208

The details that follow show the types of infestation dealt with:-

							Rats	Mice	Total
Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	18	25
Gardens and Yards (including outbuildings)							75	1	76
Sewers and drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	-	4
Agricultural Property	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Schools (including Meals Centres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
Sewage Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Shop Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
Building Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-	2
Other Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>15</u>
							<u>104</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>131</u>

Details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:-

Number of informal notices served in respect of

(a) treatments	28)	30
(b) structural work (proofing)				2)	

Number of statutory notices served NIL

Legal proceedings instituted NIL

Premises rat-proofed 3

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The disinfection of premises and/or articles was carried out in connection with the following diseases:-

Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Meningococcal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis and Suspected Poliomyelitis..								1

As in previous years the work carried out by the department in connection with the eradication of insect pests generally was confined almost entirely to advisory measures.

Twelve premises were treated by the department for infestation by wasps and one for red spiders.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

As reported in last year's annual report certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 became operative on the 31st December, 1956. These provisions include matters relating to the installation of new furnaces for non-domestic purposes, height of chimneys of new buildings, Smoke Control areas, and the making of Byelaws requiring the provision in new buildings of smokeless heating and cooking appliances.

(a) Smoke Control Areas.

During the year the Council gave preliminary consideration to the establishment of a Smoke Control Area but resolved to take no action for the time being.

(b) Building Byelaw re heating and cooking appliances

A new building byelaw made under Section 24 of the Act was adopted by the Council during the year. This Byelaw is designed to ensure that domestic appliances installed in new

buildings are capable of burning smokeless fuels or otherwise capable of smokeless operation.

(c) New Furnaces

Under Section 3 of the Act all new furnaces other than those for domestic purposes, must, as far as practicable, be capable of operation without emitting smoke, and any person who installs a new furnace must notify the local authority of his intention so to do. The submission of plans, specifications, etc., is not compulsory but where a plant is installed in accordance with plans etc., submitted to, and approved by, the local authority it is deemed to be capable of operation without emitting smoke, and no subsequent proceedings under this Section may be taken.

All applications under this Section are dealt with jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no applications were received.

(d) Height of Chimneys

Section 10 of the Act provides that when plans of a new building (other than dwellings, shops and offices) are deposited with the local authority and indicate the proposed erection of a chimney, the local authority shall reject them unless the chimney is of such a height as to prevent, as far as practicable, the smoke, grit, dust and gases from becoming prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

Here again all such plans are examined jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no plans under this heading were received.

DRAINAGE

During the year 2 existing premises (a small factory and a piggery) were provided with main drainage systems and connected to the sewer for the first time. In addition a farm house was provided with a septic tank and filter installation with the aid of an Improvement Grant.

Twenty-five choked drainage systems involving 50 premises were dealt with by the department, and at 18 premises the drainage systems were repaired, relayed or enlarged.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One factory in which the manufacture of soft furnishing is carried on is registered under the above Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two applications for licences to keep pet shops were received during the year, and at each shop conditions were found to be satisfactory and licences were issued.

Street Trading

No applications under the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944 were received during 1957.

General

The administration of various other Acts of Parliament is carried out by the Public Health Department and these include:-

Shops Act, 1950.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Petroleum Acts and Regulations.

Inspection duties under the Shops Act are usually combined with those under other headings carried out at shop premises, but many enquiries are dealt with, usually in connection with hours of closing, Sunday trading, etc..

During 1957, one new Petroleum Licence to store 6,000 gallons of petrol was issued, an existing licence was extended to cover an additional 9,000 gallons, and two licences were amended to permit the use of Petroil Dispensers.

At the end of the year 27 licences were in force and these covered a total storage capacity of 95,850 gallons.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Visits and Inspections made during the Year

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts ..	786
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	415
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act ..	551
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act and Petroleum Act	155
Shops Act visits and inspections	9
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	21
Visits and inspections re Rodent Control (by Public Health Inspectors)	56
(by Rodent Operator)	970
Administrative visits	155
Rehousing visits, etc.	394
Visits under Pet Animals Act, 1951	2
Visits under Rent Act, 1957	8
Total visits and inspections	<u>3522</u>

Details of Formal and Informal Action

Number of premises in respect of which verbal notices were given	66
Number of premises where improvements were effected following verbal notices	73
Number of premises in respect of which written Informal Notices were served	22
Number of premises where improvements were effected following service of written Informal Notices ..	45

Statutory Notices served:-

Public Health Act, 1936

Section 93 - Abatement of Nuisance	1
Section 39 - Drainage of existing buildings ..	1

Housing Act, 1936 or 1957

Requisition for Information	12
Time and Place for considering unfit house	14
Notice to quit house subject to Demolition Order	13
Demolition Orders	13

Rent Act, 1957

Form J - Proposal to issue Certificate of Disrepair	3
Form L - Certificate of Disrepair	1

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Regulation 16	<u>1</u>
	<u>59</u>

Statutory notices requiring execution of works complied with	7
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Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS, REPAIRS, ETC.,

CARRIED OUT DURING 1957

(a) <u>DWELLING HOUSES</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>houses</u>
<u>Water Supply and Fittings</u>	
Services repaired, renewed or improved 3	
Storage cisterns repaired, renewed, cleansed or covered 1	
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drainage systems to septic tanks and filters .. 1	
Drains relaid, repaired or improved 14	
Drains unstopped (22 blockages) 39	
Eavesgutters and down pipes repaired, renewed or unstopped 5	
Soil and waste pipes repaired/renewed 3	
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>	
New W.Cs. provided or substituted for earth closets 1	
W.C. pans repaired or renewed 1	
Flushing cisterns and/or flush pipes repaired or renewed 1	
<u>Miscellaneous Repairs or Improvements</u>	
Chimney Stacks rebuilt/repaired 2	
Roofs repaired or renewed 4	
Damp-proof courses provided 1	
Underfloor ventilation provided or improved .. 2	
External brickwork repaired, rendered, pointed etc., 2	
Yard paving repaired or renewed 1	
Floors repaired or renewed 4	
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed 4	
Dustbins provided or renewed 10	
Sundry repairs and improvements 5	
Doors repaired or renewed 2	
Windows repaired or renewed 5	

(b) FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

<u>Food Hyg.</u> <u>Reg.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>premises</u>
8 Food protected from risk of contamination ..	1
23 Floors renewed or repaired	16
23 Walls and ceilings renewed or repaired ..	16
21 Ventilation of food rooms improved	1
17 First aid materials provided	12
18 Accommodation for staff clothing provided ..	9
24 Accumulations of refuse removed from food rooms	2
23 Food Rooms cleansed	7
6 Cleansing of articles and equipment carried out	3
6 Articles and equipment repaired, renewed or improved	10
16 Wash hand basins provided	11
16 Water supplies provided in connection with wash basins:-	
(a) hot water	17
(b) cold water	2
16 Soap, nailbrushes or towels provided	1
14 Sanitary conveniences - cleansed	3
- lobbies ventilated	2
14 "Wash hands" notices affixed near sanitary conveniences	5
19 Additional sinks or other facilities for washing food and equipment provided ..	6
Sinks or other washing-up facilities repaired/renewed/or cleansed	2
19 Water supplies provided in connection with sinks, etc.	
(a) hot water	6

Miscellaneous

Storage facilities enlarged/improved	2
Drainage provided, repaired or improved	1
Food premises voluntarily closed	1
Dustbins provided	4
Premises disinfested of insects	1

(c) FACTORIES (Factories Act, 1937)

Sanitary Conveniences improved/repaired/ cleansed (Section 6)	3
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(d) MISCELLANEOUS

Sanitary accommodation at licensed premises improved	1
Overcrowding abated	1
Offensive accumulations removed	1
Premises, other than dwelling houses, in which drains unstopped (3 stoppages)	11
Premises, other than dwelling houses, provided with main drainage to the sewer	2

